

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.*

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus for measuring blood pressure in left and right upper arms, comprising:

a chassis;

a hollow cylindrical airbag having inner and outer walls, and received in the chassis, for suppressing a flow of blood of a human body by the inner wall when compressed air is introduced into the airbag;

a plurality of cushions provided in the airbag, for causing the airbag to remain in an inflated state before compressed air is introduced into the airbag;

said plurality of cushions comprising first, second and third cushions, and an auxiliary cushion, the first, second, third and auxiliary cushions each possessing a width as measured in a circumferential direction of the cylindrical airbag and a length measured in a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical airbag;

the first, second, third and auxiliary cushions being arranged in that order in the airbag considered with reference to the circumferential direction of the airbag;

the width of both the first cushion and the width of the third cushion being greater than the width of both the second cushion and the width of the auxiliary cushion;

the auxiliary cushion possessing a thickness that increase in the length-wise direction of the auxiliary cushion; and

first and second microphones which are arranged in the airbag to oppose each other, so that the first microphone detects Korotkoff sounds at the right upper arm of the human body near arteries thereof when the right upper arm is inserted through and covered with the hollow cylindrical airbag and the compressed air is introduced into the airbag, and the second microphone detects Korotkoff sounds at the left upper arm of the human body near arteries thereof when the left upper arm is inserted through and covered with the hollow cylindrical airbag and the compressed air is introduced into the airbag.

19. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 18, wherein each of the first, second and third cushions has one side surface is attached to an inside of the outer wall of the airbag ~~at one side~~, and has an ~~uneven wall on an~~ opposite side surface that is wavy-shaped.

20. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the cushions are fixed on an inside of the outer wall of the airbag, and spaced apart from one another in a circumferential direction.

21. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said first and second microphones are attached to portions of an outside of the inner wall at circumferential positions on the airbag[[,]] corresponding to circumferential positions of the first and third cushions.

22. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the ~~cushions include first, second and third cushions fixed on an inner side of the outer wall, the second~~ first and third cushions ~~being~~ are arranged symmetrically with respect to the ~~first~~ second cushion in a circumferential direction of the cylindrical airbag;

said first and second microphones are attached to portions of an outside of the inner wall at circumferential positions on the airbag[.]] corresponding to circumferential positions of the ~~second~~ first and third cushions.

23. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 18, which further comprises an elastic band-shaped member attached to an inner side of the outer wall.

24. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the elastic band-shaped member is arranged on an inlet side of the airbag through which the upper arm is inserted into the airbag, and extended in a circumferential direction of the cylindrical airbag.

25. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the cylindrical airbag is formed by bending an elongated rectangular airbag strip in a cylindrical shape, and overlapping opposite end portions of the airbag strip in a longitudinal direction thereof.

26. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the ~~which further comprises an~~ auxiliary cushion is attached to an inner side of the outer wall near the overlapping opposite end portions of the airbag strip.

27. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the thickness of the auxiliary cushion ~~has a thickness~~ gradually ~~increasing~~ increases in an insert direction of the upper arm.

28. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 18, which further comprises a pair of pockets attached to an inner side of the inner wall of the airbag, each of the microphones being positioned ~~inserted~~ in each one of the pockets.

29. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 28, which further comprises a cable holder attached to the airbag between the pockets, and a cable connecting the microphones and supported by the cable holder.

30. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 18, in which a plurality of fasteners are fixed to the airbag and extend outwardly away from ~~provided on~~ an outer circumferential surface of the airbag, each having a flange shaped like a mushroom cap, and the chassis has engagement holes in which the flanges of the fasteners are fitted, thereby fastening the airbag to the chassis.

31. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 30, wherein each of the engagement holes is shaped like a gourd, and is formed by a relatively large

through hole and a relatively small through hole connected to each other, and each of the flanges shaped like a mushroom cap is inserted into the relatively large through hole and is moved from the relatively large through hole to the relatively small through hole to be set in the engagement hole.

32. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 30, wherein each of the fasteners has a through conduit therein for supplying and discharging compressed air into and from the airbag.

33. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 30, wherein each of the fasteners has a conduit therein for detecting pressure of the compressed air in the airbag.

34. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 32, wherein a filter is provided in the conduit for preventing chips of the cushions from entering the conduit.

35. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 18, wherein an inner circumferential surface of the hollow cylindrical airbag received in the chassis is covered with a cloth cover made of flexible fibers.

36. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the cloth cover is formed in the shape of a hollow cylinder and has an elastic ring at each

end, and the elastic rings are fitted in recesses formed in a housing of a sphygmomanometer, whereby the cloth cover is removably secured to the housing.

37. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus for measuring blood pressure in left and right upper arms of a human body, comprising:

a cylindrical chassis having an inner surface;

a hollow cylindrical airbag having inner and outer walls and an upper arm receiving space encircled by the inner wall for alternatively receiving the left upper arm and the right upper arm, the airbag being secured to the chassis so that the outer wall of the airbag faces the inner surface of the chassis, the airbag suppressing flow of blood of the upper arm of the human body by the inner wall when compressed air is introduced into the airbag;

a plurality of spaced apart cushions in the airbag which cause the airbag to be in an inflated state before compressed air is introduced into the airbag;

said plurality of cushions comprising first, second and third cushions, and an auxiliary cushion, the first, second, third and auxiliary cushions each possessing a width as measured in a circumferential direction of the cylindrical airbag and a length measured in a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical airbag;

the first, second, third and auxiliary cushions being arranged in that order in the airbag considered with reference to the circumferential direction of the airbag;

the width of both the first cushion and the width of the third cushion being greater than the width of both the second cushion and the width of the auxiliary cushion;

the auxiliary cushion possessing a thickness that increase in the length-wise direction of the auxiliary cushion; and

first and second microphones positioned in facing relation to one another at diametrically opposite positions across the upper arm receiving space so that the first microphone detects Korotkoff sounds at the right upper arm of the human body near arteries thereof when the right upper arm is inserted through and covered with the hollow cylindrical airbag and the compressed air is introduced into the airbag, and the second microphone detects Korotkoff sounds at the left upper arm of the human body near arteries thereof when the left upper arm is inserted through and covered with the hollow cylindrical airbag and the compressed air is introduced into the airbag.

38. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the ~~cushions include~~ first, second and third cushions are fixed on an inner side of the outer wall, the ~~second~~ first and third cushions being arranged symmetrically with respect to the ~~first~~ second cushion in a circumferential direction of the cylindrical airbag, said first and second microphones being attached to portions of an outside of the inner wall at positions corresponding to the ~~second~~ first and third cushions.

39. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the airbag possesses an inlet side at one axial end of the cylindrical airbag through which the upper arm is inserted into the airbag and an outlet side at the opposite axial end of the airbag, and ~~further comprising an~~ wherein the auxiliary cushion is attached to an inner side of the outer wall ~~between the second and third cushions,~~

the auxiliary cushion possessing an intermediate portion between opposite axial ends of the auxiliary cushion whose thickness gradually increases in a direction toward the outlet side of the airbag.

40. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the first, second and third cushions each possess a wavy-shaped side opposing an inner circumferential surface of the airbag, the auxiliary cushion possessing a side opposing the inner circumferential surface of the airbag that is not wavy-shaped.

41. (Previously Presented) A cuff apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the airbag possesses an inlet side at one axial end of the cylindrical airbag through which the upper arm is inserted into the airbag and an outlet side at the opposite axial end of the airbag, and further comprising a circumferentially extending elastic band-shaped member attached to an inner side of the outer wall of the airbag, the elastic band-shaped member being positioned closer to the inlet side of the airbag than the outlet side of the airbag.

42. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising a pair of pockets attached to an inner side of the inner wall of the airbag, each of the microphones being ~~position~~ positioned in one of the pockets, a cable holder attached to the airbag at a position between the pockets, and a cable connecting the microphones and supported by the cable holder.



43. (Currently Amended) A cuff apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the airbag is secured to the chassis by a plurality of fasteners provided on an outer circumferential surface of the airbag, each of the fasteners being positioned in a respective engagement hole provided in the chassis, at least one of the fasteners positioned in the engagement hole in the chassis to secure the airbag to the chassis possessing a through hole that ~~communicated~~ communicates with an interior of the airbag to supply compressed air to the interior of the airbag and discharge compressed air from the interior of the airbag.

44. (New) A cuff apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the width of the first cushion and the third cushion is about 80 mm, the length of the first cushion and the third cushion is about 90 mm, the first cushion and the third cushion possess a maximum thickness of about 25 mm, the width of the second cushion is about 40 mm, the length of the second cushion is about 90 mm, the maximum thickness of the second cushion is about 25 mm, the width of the auxiliary cushion is about 40 mm, the length of the auxiliary cushion is about 60 mm, and the thickness of the auxiliary cushion changes from a minimum thickness of about 10 mm to a maximum thickness of about 40 mm.

45. (New) A cuff apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the width of the first cushion and the third cushion is about 80 mm, the length of the first cushion and the third cushion is about 90 mm, the first cushion and the third cushion possess a maximum thickness of about 25 mm, the width of the second cushion is about 40 mm, the length of the second cushion is about 90 mm, the maximum thickness of the

second cushion is about 25 mm, the width of the auxiliary cushion is about 40 mm, the length of the auxiliary cushion is about 60 mm, and the thickness of the auxiliary cushion changes from a minimum thickness of about 10 mm to a maximum thickness of about 40 mm.